

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 5, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 14, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1817

Introduced by Assembly Member Gomez
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Mullin, Ting, and
Wieckowski)

February 18, 2014

An act to *amend Section 49040 of, and to add and repeal Section 49041 of to, the Education Code, relating to voter registration.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1817, as amended, Gomez. Voter registration: high school pupils.

Existing law permits a county elections official to deputize as registrars of voters qualified citizens, and permits a deputy registrar to register persons to vote. Existing law requires the last two full weeks in April and in September to be known as “high school voter weeks,” during which time deputy registrars of voters are allowed to register to vote students and school personnel on high school campuses.

This bill would instead designate the last two full weeks in April and in September to be “high school voter education weeks,” during which time persons authorized by the county elections official are allowed to register to vote students and school personnel on high school campuses.

Under existing law, a person may not be registered as a voter except by affidavit of registration. A person is entitled to register to vote if he or she is a United States citizen, a resident of California, not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election. Existing law requires a properly executed

affidavit of registration to be deemed effective upon receipt of the affidavit by the county elections official, if received on or before the 15th day prior to an election, or as otherwise specified.

Existing law, operative when the Secretary of State certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, authorizes a person who is at least 17 years of age and otherwise meets all voter eligibility requirements to submit his or her affidavit of registration. The affidavit of registration is deemed effective as of the date the affiant will be 18 years of age.

~~This bill would permit the governing board of a school district to authorize a high school pupil 16 years of age or older to register to vote on his or her high school campus any person who is qualified to register to vote. This bill, operative when the Secretary of State certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, would also permit a pupil to register to vote any person who is 17 years of age or older and otherwise meets all voter eligibility requirements. school administration of a high school to appoint one or more pupils who are enrolled at that high school to be voter outreach coordinators. This bill would permit a voter outreach coordinator to coordinate voter registration activities on the high school campus that would encourage eligible persons to apply to register to vote by submitting an affidavit of registration. This bill would permit the voter outreach coordinator, with the approval of the school administration, to coordinate other election-related activities on his or her high school campus, as specified.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 49040 of the Education Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 49040. The last two full weeks in April and the last two full
- 4 weeks in September shall be known as “high school voter education
- 5 weeks,” during which time ~~deputy registrars of voters persons~~
- 6 ~~authorized by the county elections official~~ shall be allowed to
- 7 register students and school personnel on any high school campus
- 8 in areas designated by the school administration, which are
- 9 reasonably accessible to all students.

1 *SEC. 2. Section 49041 is added to the Education Code, to read:*
2 *49041. (a) The school administration of a high school may*
3 *appoint one or more pupils who are enrolled at that high school*
4 *to be voter outreach coordinators.*

5 *(b) A voter outreach coordinator may coordinate voter*
6 *registration activities on his or her high school campus that*
7 *encourage persons who are eligible to register to vote pursuant*
8 *to Section 2101 of the Elections Code, or other persons who may*
9 *submit an affidavit of registration pursuant to Section 2102 of the*
10 *Elections Code, to apply to register to vote by submitting an*
11 *affidavit of registration on paper or electronically on the Secretary*
12 *of State's electronic voter registration system.*

13 *(c) A voter outreach coordinator may, with the approval of the*
14 *school administration, coordinate election-related activities on*
15 *his or her high school campus, including voter registration drives,*
16 *mock elections, debates, and other election-related pupil outreach*
17 *activities.*

18 ~~SECTION 1. Section 49041 is added to the Education Code,~~
19 ~~to read:~~

20 ~~49041. (a) The governing board of a school district may~~
21 ~~authorize a high school pupil 16 years of age or older to register~~
22 ~~to vote any person who is entitled to register pursuant to Section~~
23 ~~2101 of the Elections Code. A pupil authorized pursuant to this~~
24 ~~section shall conduct voter registration on his or her high school~~
25 ~~campus only during high school voter weeks, as described in~~
26 ~~Section 49040, or at any other time deemed appropriate by the~~
27 ~~governing board.~~

28 ~~(b) This section shall remain in effect only until the Secretary~~
29 ~~of State certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration~~
30 ~~database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help~~
31 ~~America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 15301 et seq.) and as~~
32 ~~of that date is repealed.~~

33 ~~SEC. 2. Section 49041 is added to the Education Code, to read:~~

34 ~~49041. (a) The governing board of a school district may~~
35 ~~authorize a high school pupil 16 years of age or older to register~~
36 ~~to vote any person who is entitled to register pursuant to Section~~
37 ~~2101 of the Elections Code, or who is 17 years of age or older and~~
38 ~~otherwise meets all voter eligibility requirements as specified in~~
39 ~~subdivision (d) of Section 2102 of the Elections Code. A pupil~~
40 ~~authorized pursuant to this section shall conduct voter registration~~

1 ~~on his or her high school campus only during high school voter~~
2 ~~weeks, as described in Section 49040, or at any other time deemed~~
3 ~~appropriate by the governing board.~~

4 ~~(b) This section shall become operative when the Secretary of~~
5 ~~State certifies that the state has a statewide voter registration~~
6 ~~database that complies with the requirements of the federal Help~~
7 ~~America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 15301 et seq.).~~